



December 2024

Despatch

The Journal of the Kyneton RSL

37-39 Mollison Street, Kyneton Victoria. 3444 Phone (03) 5422 6735 Email manager@kynetonrsl.com.au

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

on behalf of the
Kyneton RSL Sub-Branch
Committee, Management
and Staff



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FROM THE PRESIDENT Mike Gretton

Dear Members,

Brilliant sunshine greeted those in attendance at Remembrance Day services in Kyneton and Trentham this year and numerous wreaths were laid in memory of the fallen. We were pleased to have Federal Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters, and State Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, attend the ceremony in Kyneton and lay wreaths on behalf of their constituents. Our last remaining Korean veteran, former President of the Kyneton RSL and Life Member, John Munro, also travelled down from Moama to lay a wreath on behalf of Korean veterans. Students from local schools in Kyneton, Trentham and Tylden also played a significant part in both ceremonies and it is always a pleasure to have them participate. A big thank you also to Craig Byrne who ran the ceremony in Kyneton, as I was occupied in Trentham.

We also conducted ceremonies for the residents in Respect RM Begg, BUPA and Trentham Aged Care facilities. Many of these residents are unable to attend the ceremonies on Remembrance Day and are always appreciative of the services we conduct on their behalf.

The Poppy Appeal, whilst a little down on previous years, raised close to \$7000 and we are very much appreciative of all those who bought poppies or simply made a donation in support of our veterans.

We conducted ceremonies to commemorate Victory in the Pacific Day on 15 August and Vietnam Veterans Day on 18 August. Following the VP Day ceremony, we were pleased to host several of our World War II veterans to lunch at the RSL. Sadly, our oldest WWII veteran, Joyce Strawhorn, who reached her 103rd birthday on 18 September, passed away on 15 October. Joyce served in both the WAAAF and AWAS during WWII. Russ McGregor delivered a poignant insight into his time in Vietnam at the Vietnam Veterans' Day ceremony.

On 31 October we conducted a small wreath-laying ceremony at the Light Horse Monument in Jennings Street to commemorate Beersheba Day. Several members of the Light Horse Association travelled up from Melbourne to join us in the ceremony. The main role of the Kyneton RSL, which is to provide assistance to our veterans, continues unabated. Details of the support we provide can be found on Page 7. As well as assisting our own veterans we have provided assistance to other RSLs in the region. Following a recent request from the Woodend RSL, we donated \$5000 to them to assist with the replacement and installation of a new dishwasher to enable them to get their kitchen back up and running.

As well as supporting our veterans we also provide support to many local sporting clubs, community organisations, schools and festivals. Details of this support can be found on Page 3.

The State Annual Conference of the RSL was held in July. We had four delegates attend online at the Bendigo RSL, an arrangement that proved quite successful as well as convenient. One significant change that came out of the conference was to provide free membership of the RSL for serving members of the ADF. If you are a member of the Kyneton RSL and are still serving, please let us know so that your membership fee can be waived. We would also like to reiterate that the membership fee for Service members over 80 is also waived. This is also a timely reminder that membership renewals are now due. Please ensure that you renew your membership before 31 January as all RSL Rewards points expire at that time and your membership will go into Lapsed status and all benefits will be suspended. Remember that Rewards points can be used to renew your membership. I would also like to mention that new membership cards are now available at the RSL. These will be issued when you renew your membership. If you are not due for renewal, you can call into the RSL and the staff will issue your new card.

This year we have again submitted a nomination in the annual Hall of Fame Awards for Sub-Branch of the Year. We believe we have made a strong case for the Kyneton RSL but the outcome won't be known until the New Year. Our submission is based on our strong record of excellent service to our members and guests and support to our veterans and the wider community. It is also a reflection of the great work put in by all committee members and staff at the Kyneton RSL.

On 3 December, we hosted Veterans, their partners and Legacy Widows to our annual combined Christmas Lunch. Over 90 people were in attendance and were treated to a traditional Christmas lunch and all received a little bag of Christmas cheer. Warren's alter ego, Santa Claus, contributed to the festive spirit. All reports indicated that the day was enjoyed by everyone.

In conclusion, I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas and a prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Mike Gretton
President

Kyneton RSL Management 2024



Office Bearers:

President: Mike Gretton

Senior Vice President: Brian Turley

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Natalie Gretton

Treasurer: Ian Jackson

Committee: Rob Renton, Greg Muir

Administration:

Manager: Rebecca Hemphill

Bookkeeper: Erin Downie

Pensions & Welfare: Rob Renton,
Phil Davis, Joy McDermott

Memorabilia: Ian Jackson, Mike Gretton

Appeals: Brian Turley

Social Events: Ian Jackson

Funerals: Rob Renton, Mike Gretton

Despatch Journal Team:

Mike Gretton, Natalie Gretton, Lyn Ingles

VALE - 2024

🌿 Peter Brassington	11 August 24
🌿 Charlie Vosper	5th August 24
🌿 Reg Till (Woodend RSL)	21st September 24
🌿 Myles Charter	27th August 24
🌿 Joyce Strawhorn	15th October 24
🌿 Peter Cameron	18th October 24



Lest We Forget



Creative by Lynette Ingles blue pencil publishing 0429 911 980

We support... sport, craft clubs, festivals and group activities

Support to the Community

As a community organisation, we are conscious of our responsibility to support local sporting clubs, community organisations, schools and local festivals. We are a Gold Sponsor of the annual Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival and also support the Kyneton Art Group with their art exhibition that runs in conjunction with the festival. Many local sporting clubs are also supported by the Kyneton RSL.

Each year we donate to local schools and colleges in support of their end-of-year presentation nights. Another important organisation that we support is the local Food Bank who provide assistance to over 800 families in the Macedon Ranges who are struggling financially. A list of all those clubs and organisations we have assisted this year is below.



Organisations we have supported this year:

- Kyneton Football Netball Club
- Kyneton District Soccer Club
- Kyneton Croquet Club
- Kyneton Clay Target Club
- Kyneton Tennis Club
- Kyneton Municipal Band
- Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival
- Kyneton Art Group
- Kyneton Agricultural Society
- Kyneton Community Learning Centre
- U3A
- Kyneton Connect
- Kyneton Handweavers
- Trentham Men's Shed
- TRATA
- St George's Church, Trentham



Staff and volunteers getting into the spirit of the **Daffodil Festival**

Remembrance Day - Kyneton



Wonderful attendances at Services and Dinners



Kyneton RSL members were joined by members of the Light Horse Association for Beersheba Day



Tim Collins & Jim Foreman – VP Day 2024



Joyce Daymon, Cr Janet Pearce, Mike Gretton, Joyce Strawhorn - VP Day 2024



Tim Collins, Jim Foreman & Terry Ford - Remembrance Day, RM Begg



430 SQN Squadron - Dining In Night

As well as conducting the traditional **Remembrance Day** services, the Kyneton RSL also conducted ceremonies to commemorate **VP Day**, **Vietnam Veterans Day** and **Beersheba Day**



VP Day and Vietnam Veterans Day wreaths

Christmas Luncheon for Veterans & Legacy



Keeping fit and making friends...



Croquet team welcome more players... it's fun... be part of the next game.

Below: Kyneton Small Bore Club Shooting activity.



*Top: Joyce - aim and shoot!
Below: Induction at the Rifle Range*



Left: Participating at the Small Bore Shooting activity.



*Kyneton RSL President, Mike Gretton, with
Kyneton Angling Club President, John Condliffe*



*Greg & Sue Kingsford rugged up waiting for
the fish to bite*



Learning to cast

Free Exercise Classes for Veterans

Proactive Health is offering free Exercise Physiology classes for Veterans and their families. These can be done at a gym facility in several locations throughout central Victoria, including Kyneton.

Arrangements can also be made with them to do exercise classes at home. For further information, contact **Ben Drechsler**

Pro Active Health | Ben Drechsler
Mobile: 0412 555 869
Administration: 1300 890 507
Email: admin@pro-active.com.au

Veterans Support

We provide regular services to our veterans in the form of window and gutter cleaning and general garden maintenance. In addition, **Joy McDermott, a volunteer with our Welfare team**, regularly visits Veterans and Legacy widows in Aged Care homes as well as in their own homes. She also provides transport for them to attend various

medical appointments as well as helping out with shopping and other chores.

The RSL has also been hosting a monthly lunch for Legacy widows. We have also been fortunate to have staff from Mary-Anne Thomas' office attend the Sub-Branch to assist veterans obtain their Victoria Government's Veterans' Card.

We continue to conduct activities under the

auspices of the **RSL Active** program, with activities as diverse as table tennis, croquet and shooting. Our thanks go to those organisations that hosted these events and to Warren for his continuing efforts in organising the activities.

As part of **Veterans Health Week** we teamed up with the Kyneton Angling Club for fishing at the Upper Coliban Reservoir.

Welcome to the Kyneton RSL Club

Great Venue, Great Service, Great Value & Meals

Show & Save & Earn

Members receive **10% discount** off all food and drink upon presentation of their **MEMBER'S CARD**

RSL REWARDS PROGRAM is open to RSL Members only at participating RSL venues throughout Victoria.



**10%
Discount***

Euchre

First Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm.
New players are most welcome.
Information please phone: **(03) 5422 6735**

Kyneton RSL Trading Times

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday	9am – 10pm
Thursday	9am – 11pm
Friday & Saturday	9am – 12 midnight
Sunday	10am – 10pm

Kyneton RSL Club

Closed on Christmas Day & Good Friday

Bistro Trading Times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday	Lunch 11.30am – 2pm Dinner 5.30pm – 8pm
Thursday, Friday & Saturday	Lunch 11.30am – 2pm Dinner 5.30pm – 8.30pm



**ALL DAY PIZZA AVAILABLE
IN THE SPORTS BAR**

PARMA NIGHT - TUESDAY

A choice of toppings

Come and enjoy a meal in our bistro.

**\$16
EACH**

MEMBERS' DRAW – THURSDAY

Thursday – *You must be present to win it!*

SPORTS BAR MENU

Available everyday between
11.30am – 2pm & 5.30pm – 8pm

HAPPY HOUR:

Thursday & Friday 6pm – 7pm
Saturday 12pm – 1pm

PLEASE NOTE:

While the Kyneton RSL will endeavour to accommodate requests for special dietary requirements, allergies or intolerances, we cannot guarantee complete allergy free meals due to potential trace allergens in the working environment and supplied ingredients.

ENTERTAINMENT AT OUR CLUB

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Last Saturday of every month.

\$5pp

includes tea, coffee
(coffee station only)
& scones

MORNING MELODIES MONTHLY
2nd Wednesday of every month
from 10.30am - 11.30am.

For more information about bookings: **(03) 5422 6735**

For more information on any of our events
and services please call **(03) 5422 6735**

We welcome your company...